

Technical Excellence Award

Jon Kell, P.Eng.



Jon Kell graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering in 1998 and a M.Sc. in Civil Engineering in 2001. Since that time, he has been busy perfecting his technical skills in structural engineering, particularly in relation to transmission line system infrastructure. Jon has pioneered a number of new philosophies on designing and maintaining transmission systems and has provided innovative engineering solutions for the Transmission Business Unit of Manitoba Hydro.

Jon is the head of the Civil Design Section at Manitoba Hydro and is responsible for engineering design and detailing services for transmission lines, stations, and communications. He has 19 years of progressive experience in key roles driving innovation, economic sustainability, system reliability, public safety, and staff career growth. He currently administers a section that includes 27 highly qualified technical staff and engineers.

Under Jon's leadership, the Civil Design Section has developed an innovative reliability based design philosophy on transmission system design and maintenance versus traditional approaches. The process allows for sound engineering decisions that balance the cost with reliability. Coupled with sophisticated numerical analysis techniques including the use of finite element analysis for structural design, the process has allowed for significant cost savings for Manitoba Hydro.

As a technical expert, Jon regularly provides advice and guidance to Manitoba Hydro's management and executive. He is also recognized as an expert with his counterparts in neighbouring utilities where he provides advice on major transmission system issues as well as best practices. He is involved in technical committees including the Canadian Standards Association (CSA W47.1) and with international research programs through the Centre for Energy Advancement through Technical Innovation.

Jon fully supports and develops his staff by encouraging them to join technical committees and to prepare and present technical presentations. He also encourages them to do peer reviews so that staff can learn from others while also learning by teaching others. In addition he is a Councillor in Manitoba Hydro's Professional Engineering Association and has successfully campaigned for non-traditional methods of Providing Professional Development opportunities, even during periods of intense fiscal management at his place of work.

Jon is also the Chairman of the Board for the Winnipeg Industrial Skills Training Centre. This is a non-profit corporation that provides relevant training in the metal trade with the objective of providing unemployed individuals the opportunity to obtain the trade skills required to successfully enter industrial welding and metal fabrication workplaces.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and scientific knowledge applied to benefit Manitobans and the nation, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is pleased to present the Technical Excellence Award to Mr. Jon Kell, P.Eng.